THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna, called the Yamuna Action Plan has been approved by the Government.

(b) The feasibility report referred to in the question has been prepared by the Delhi Development Authority under the title "Planning of River Yamuna Bed". This report, inter-alia, covers the following:

(i) Pollution control of river through environmental improvement and treatment of sewage.

(ii) Channelisation of river.

(iii) Reclamation of land on the river bed for development activities.

(iv) Navigation facilities across the river.

Of these, the pollution control aspects are covered under the Yamuna Action Plan.

(c) The Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund of Japan is providing only financial assistance and has approved a soft loan of Yen 17.77 Billion (equivalent to Rs. 401 crore) for part financing the Yamuna Action Plan.

(d) No suggestion from the Environmental Protection Agency of USA or Lemna Corporation bas been received by the Government in this regard.

Cleaning of the Dal Lake

3865. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the J&K Government have taken some fresh steps to clean up the Dal Lake; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The measures taken by the J&K Government for cleaning up of Dal Lake include the following:

(i) Soil conservation measures in the lake catchment area.

(ii) Low cost sanitation along peripheral areas.

(iii) Selective deweeding.

(iv) Sewerage and drainage construction work in Habak and Hazaratbal areas.

(v) Improvement of Nallah Amir Khan.

(vi) Development of plots for rehabilitation of dislocated families.

(vii) Construction of foreshore roads.

(viii) Replanning and sewage disposal from houseboats.

(ix) Shifting of leper asylum from Bahra Ara and its rehabilitation at Khonmoh.

(x) Construction of settling basin on Telbal Nallah.

(xi) Setting up of a laboratory for water quality monitoring.

(xii) Improvements of navigational routes.

In addition to the above measures the State Government has recently prepared a scheme for diversion of sewage entering the lake by laying down sewers along the lake periphery.

Centre's Plan to clean up Rivers

3866. DR. RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI": Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to clean up 17 rivers of the country as reported in the Sunday Dated 6th June, 1993 under caption "Centre Plan to clean up Rivers".

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) A programme for pollution abatment of 14 grossly polluted stretches in 9 rivers and 14 less polluted stretches in another 8 rivers of the country is under consideration of the Government. The details in this are being worked out.

Facilities to Tribal People in Forest Areas

3867. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what facilities Government have provided to the tribal people residing in forests areas;

(b) whether there is any plan/scheme to give forest contract to the tribal people; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?